

AIRLIFT Dispatch

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Vol. 41, No. 47

437th Airlift Wing, Charleston AFB, SC

Friday, December 6, 2002



Team Charleston lines up to check the parking ramp of the Charleston AFB flightline for debris, which can damage aircraft and injure personnel. Tuesday's walk was part of the Foreign Object Debris prevention program.

FOD walk keeps CAFB flightline clean

STORY AND PHOTO BY
AIRMAN STEPHANIE HAMMER
437 AW PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Charleston AFB held the semi-annual Foreign Object Debris Walk here Tuesday in an effort to clear flightline parking ramp of objects that have the potential to damage aircraft.

According to 1st Lt. Aaron Rivers, 437th Maintenance Squadron Barracuda Flight OIC, the walks are essential to the Air Force mission.

"The FOD Walk is important to all of us, both as Air Force members and tax paying citizens of the United States," said Rivers.

See FOD, page 6

Air Force expands anthrax vaccine program

Expansion means more Team Charleston personnel to receive immunizations

Air Force senior leaders recently approved expansion of the Anthrax Vaccine Immunization Program within the service, meaning more servicemembers are being asked to roll up their sleeves.

The Air Force Anthrax Vaccine Implementation Plan was distributed to commanders Oct. 11, said Maj. Linda Bonnel of the Air Force Medical Operations Agency.

"Installations are to implement the Air Force plan immediately and expand anthrax vaccination to include Priority II personnel," Bonnel said.

Priority II personnel are military members,

emergency-essential Department of Defense civilians and specified contractors assigned or deployed to designated higher-threat areas for more than 15 consecutive days, Bonnel said.

Priority I personnel, who recently began receiving the vaccine, include those in designated special mission units and anthrax vaccine manufacturing and DOD research personnel.

Charleston AFB began implementation of the program in October, with the first shots given Oct. 28, said Maj. Rawson Wood, 437th Medical Group C-17 pilot physician. The program here is ongoing.

Individuals who fall within the Priority II description will be notified of their need for the anthrax vaccine, Bonnel said.

The public health office at each installation will maintain a complete list of the most current higher-threat areas and will ensure troops

receive all required force health protection measures prior to deployment.

Higher-threat areas include countries primarily in Southwest Asia, Bonnel said.

"The health and safety of our troops is our No. 1 concern," Bonnel said. "Vaccination offers a layer of protection — in addition to antibiotics and other measures — that is needed for certain members of the armed forces."

The Food and Drug Administration has determined that the current anthrax vaccine is safe and effective in protecting against all forms of anthrax infection, a scientific conclusion that was recently supported by the Institute of Medicine, Bonnel said.

The FDA-licensed schedule for the anthrax vaccine calls for doses at intervals of two and

See ANTHRAX, page 7

Safety first: Every day, everywhere, every mission – balancing risk with operational necessity

COMMENTARY

Commander's Comments

By **COL. BROOKS BASH**
437 AW COMMANDER

I was in Germany for the week of Thanksgiving, sharing fried turkey with our maintainers and aircrews deployed there. I am extremely proud of the hard work our folks are doing there to accomplish the mission, especially through this holiday season.

Ten Air Mobility Command safety inspectors will visit Charleston AFB next week to conduct a safety and occupational health program evaluation. This is a comprehensive inspection of flight, ground and weapons safety programs along with bioenvironmental engineering, occupational health program management and operational risk management.

This inspection comes at a perfect time to highlight an ongoing concern: we continue to find people on base who are not using seat belts. If you are in a moving vehicle, whether private or government, you must be wearing a seat belt.

As we enter the holiday season, I ask that as you enjoy holiday parties, if you choose to drink, please do so responsibly, and designate a driver before the party begins. We had a Thanksgiving holiday with no accidents, and I want to see us through the rest of the holiday season safely.

The AMC Inspector General will be here to conduct a Unit Compliance Inspection for the 437th Airlift Wing, Jan. 7-14. The inspectors will evaluate the wing's performance in 17 Common Core Compliance Areas. These areas include four by-law compliance areas: intelligence oversight, transition assistance, voter assistance, and sexual harassment education and prevention. In addition, inspectors will look at 13 mission areas: aircrew protection, civil engineering, contracting, financial management, munitions, plans and programs, supply, communications and information, disaster response, installation security, personnel,



Photo by Airman Stephanie Hammer

Al McClellum, Boeing, returns a prize-winning business card to Col. Brooks Bash, 437th Airlift Wing commander, after Tuesday's Foreign Object Debris walk. The card was hidden on the flightline and won McClellum a wing coin.

services and transportation.

With slightly less than five weeks until the inspection, group self-inspection review managers, by-law requirements program managers, and mission area representatives are concluding their latest semi-annual self-inspection, verifying the status of their findings from previous self-inspections, and closing out items that have been fixed. **Maj. Dan Wilkie**, 437 AW Inspections and Evaluations chief, is spearheading preparations. This inspection will give us another chance to demonstrate to headquarters the Team Charleston standard. I encourage you to ensure that your preparation for the UCI becomes a permanent vigilance to ensure that we always comply with Air Force guidance.

Speaking of Team Charleston excellence, our first sergeants recognized several airmen for their outstanding image, professionalism and attitude this week. Congratulations to Diamond Sharp winners **Senior Airman Tammy Grider**, 1st Combat Camera Squadron; **Senior Airman Tonya Quash**, 17th Airlift Squadron; **Airman 1st Class Nathan Griesinger**, 14th Airlift Squadron; and **Airman 1st Class Matthew Saylor**, 437th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. Keep up the good work. And remember, BE SAFE!

Security concerns, speeding in Hunley Park on action line caller's mind

Q: *I have some concerns about the security at the entry gates. What is the policy for inspecting vehicles like U-hauls and delivery trucks? My other concern is the speed limit in base housing. Isn't 20 mph a little fast? Can you lower the speed limit or patrol the area a little more for speeders, especially with the new playground there?*

A: Entry gate security is in place consistent with current Force Protection Conditions. For operational security reasons, I can not specify

specific security measures, but I want you and your family to rest assured that our security forces are on the job. I encourage everyone to support our security forces by reporting any activity you think is suspicious.

Our Security Forces conduct selective enforcement in several areas of the base, to include Hunley Park, to enforce the base traffic code. This involves not only the use of radar for speed enforcement but also monitoring key intersections for traffic safety. We will con-

tinue to monitor and take corrective action for those not obeying traffic rules. If you observe a vehicle being operated in an unsafe manner, notify security forces right away. We need a description of the vehicle and a license plate number. A mobile radar speed trailer will soon be added to provide an additional way to control vehicle speed in the housing areas. Safety is a community responsibility.

— **Col. Brooks Bash**, 437 AW commander
Action line: 963-5581 or action@charleston.af.mil

AIRLIFT Dispatch

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OEF poses challenges to expeditionary airlift

By **LT. COL. STEVE SHOPE**
817 EAS COMMANDER

To many of us in the strategic airlift business, the Expeditionary Air Force concept was as foreign to us as being in another branch of the service. Deploying a strategic airlift squadron is something we had rarely done until last January.

Last year, we began a C-17 stage to move troops and cargo into Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Missions we flew, and still fly, are vastly more complicated than ones previously flown on such a large scale.

Information required to fly missions was expansive and came from such diverse sources that we ran the risk of crews missing something critical, putting the mission and lives in danger.

As commanders, we want our troops to have the best preparation, i.e., equipment and training, before we put them in harm's way. Since the stage lacked the necessary expertise and resources to ensure this, we asked ourselves, "what can provide this?" Answer: "squadron."

worth repeating

... we have something unique. It's a bond we've developed through our enthusiasm for executing our mission to protect our families, our friends and the United States of America against terrorism. ...

—**LT. COL. STEVE SHOPE**
15th Airlift Squadron commander

That's how the 817th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron was conceived and born.

Now there are about 12 C-17 flight crews in the squadron and we're more efficient. Essentially, we have moved our home station operation forward. In November 2001, we had three times as many crews and a mission launch reliability rate of 50 percent on time. Now, with on-time departures over 90 percent, we have flown 2,000 combat missions, delivering 47,000 tons of cargo and 26,000 troops safely and effectively.

Preflight preparation for an OEF mission is much more intense than required for the average trans-Atlantic flight. Preparations include special instructions for flying in the OEF area of responsibility, knowledge of the AOR airspace and procedures for

deconfliction from other military aircraft, intelligence data for the combat zone and special tactics for arrivals into numerous airfields, among other things.

The essential task of the 817 EAS is to consolidate all this information and hand it to each of our C-17 aircrews in a user-friendly package prior to their combat missions. The crews leave the squadron very well prepared to execute all aspects of the mission.

As a first phase to total squadron deployment, the 15th Airlift Squadron was chosen to take the lead and assume all staff and ground duties at Rhein-Main AB, Germany.

As 15 AS members began to flow in and replace members of the "rainbow" unit, benefits of a deployed, homogenous unit appeared immediately. Home

station work relationships and practices materialized and people did things together off-duty. It's hard to describe, but things improved because we were with our squadron family.

Am I sold on this concept? You bet! It's been an overwhelming success.

We've had growing pains, but we've maintained above a 90 percent on-time departure rate and we've enjoyed our OEF deployment.

We're not a stage; we're a forward-deployed C-17 squadron! We're ready for the next phase.

The 14th Airlift Squadron will have the opportunity to expand our operation when they replace us in January.

The 15 AS will be in place through Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's.

As you can imagine, we'll miss our families; but our morale will stay high because we have something unique. It's a bond we've developed through our enthusiasm for executing our mission to protect our families, our friends and the United States of America against terrorism.

God bless you all, and God bless the United States of America.

Ethnic observances offer learning experience

By **TECH. SGT. DENESE BELLAMY**
437 LRS

Earlier this year, when information was sent out highlighting events in recognition of Black History Month, an airman who received the e-mail responded, "Sorry, you e-mailed the wrong person."

When the airman was asked about his response, he said, "I'm not African-American."

Unfortunately, this is the thinking of many individuals when it comes to ethnic observances. Many individuals feel they should be a member of that particular ethnic group in order to participate in the observance events or be a member of an ethnic committee.

As military and civilian members, it's imperative to understand the importance of ethnic observances and the impact they have on our mission. The observances not only recognize contributions made by various groups to society but also foster better understanding and mutual respect through education.

Participation in ethnic observance events

enhances human relations and promotes an environment free of stereotypes, prejudices and discrimination.

Our mission depends on an environment where individuals can get along regardless of their ethnic background. Today, as our military becomes increasingly diverse, members should get better acquainted with someone they don't know much about culturally.

As a military, we are working to combat terrorism and preserve world peace, so we must continue to serve in unity. Value and respect every individual regardless of his or her ethnic background, race, color, religion or sex. In a time of war, that person may be standing beside you watching your back as you watch theirs.

The next time an e-mail pops up on your screen informing you of an ethnic observance event, do yourself a favor and take the opportunity to arm yourself with knowledge. As Theodore Roosevelt once said, "The most important single ingredient in the formula of success is knowing how to get along with people."

Ethnic and gender observances

January: Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday, third Monday of the month

February: African-American/Black History Month

March: Women's History Month

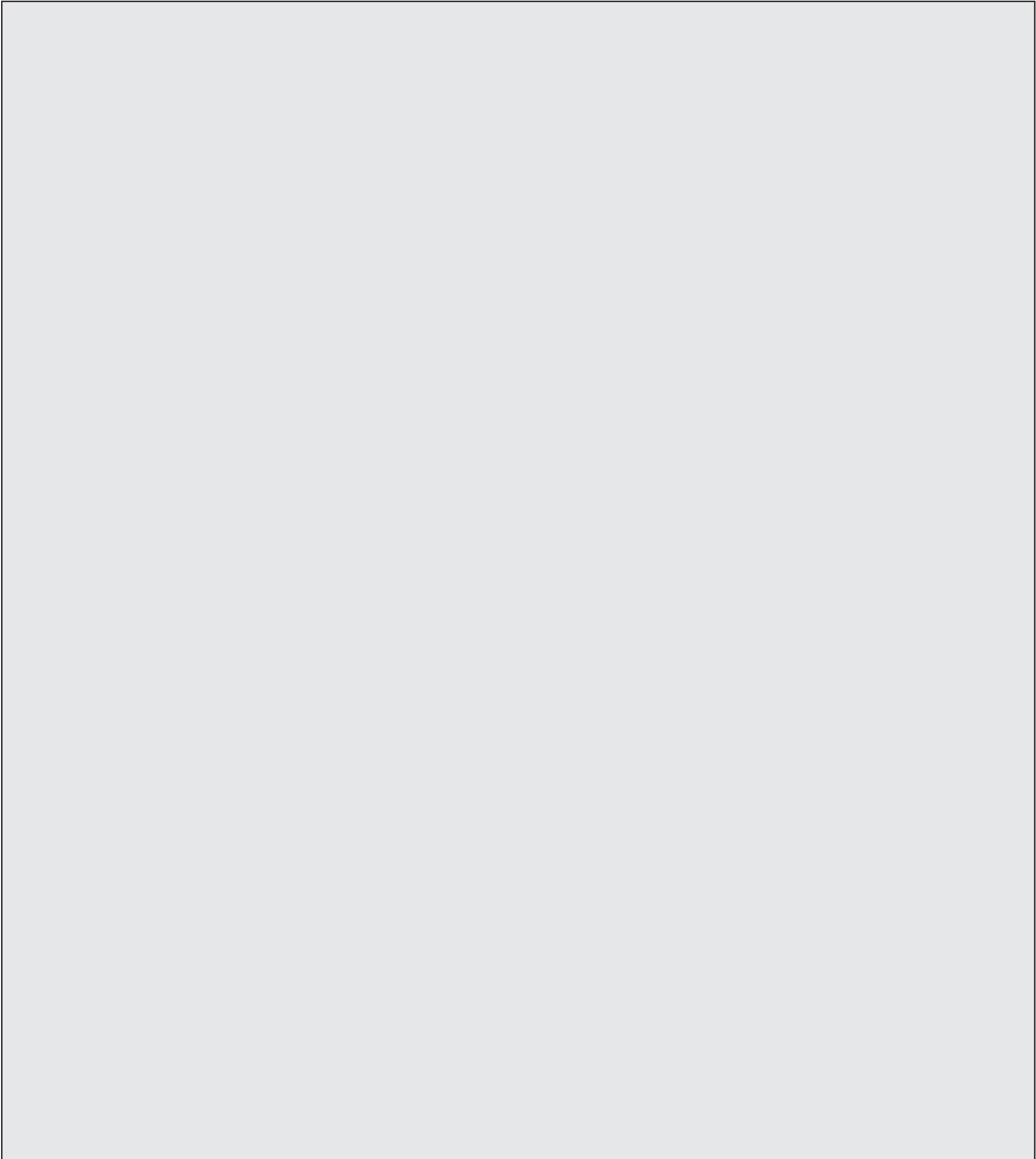
April/May: "Days of Remembrance" for Victims of the Holocaust, Sunday-Sunday during the week incorporating Yom Hashoah

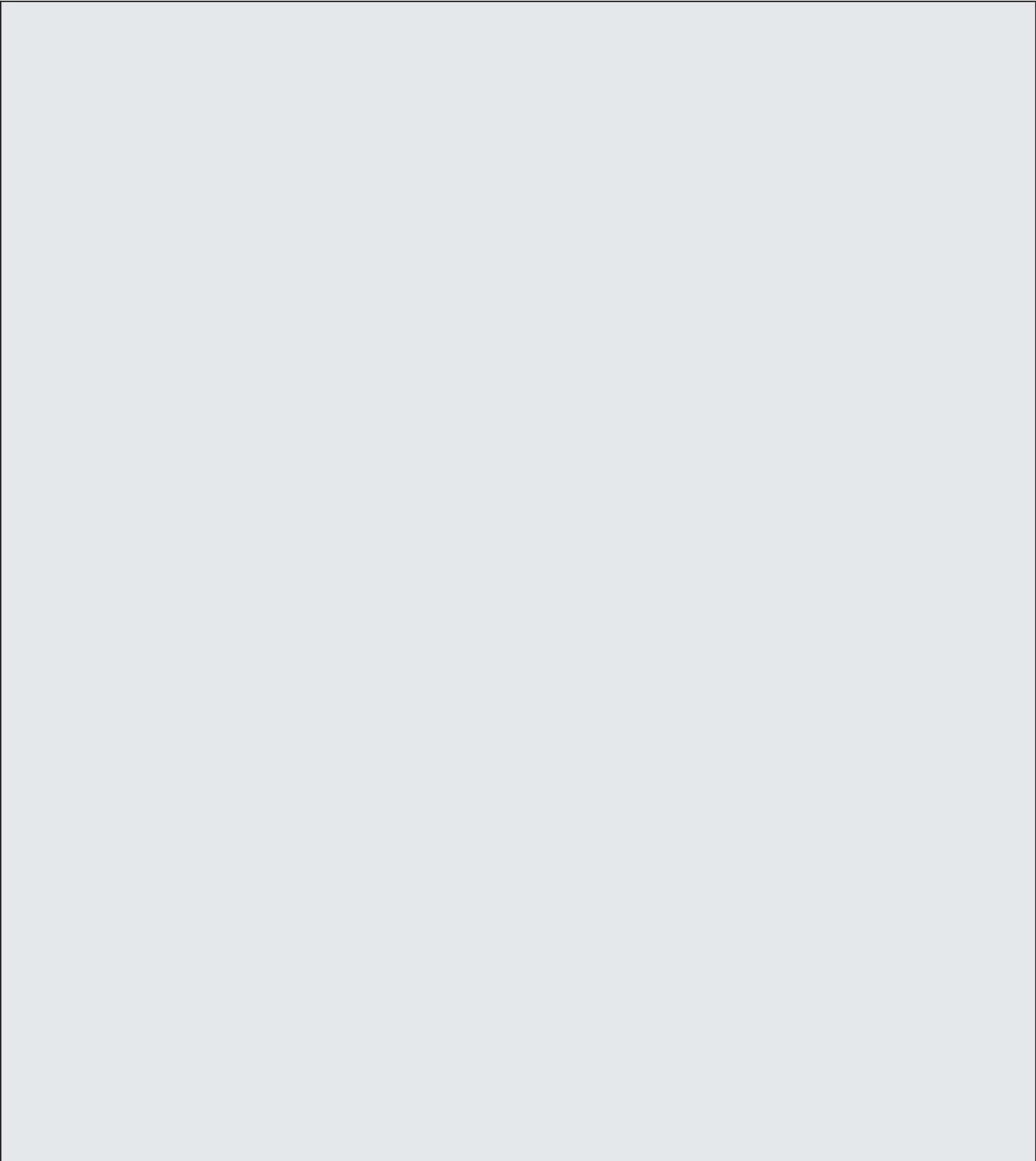
May: Asian/Pacific Heritage Month

August: Women's Equality Day, Aug. 26

September/October: National Hispanic Heritage Month, Sept. 15-Oct. 15

November: National Native-American/Indian Heritage Month





NEWS

President signs 2003 Defense Authorization Act

BY STAFF SGT. A.J. BOSKER
AIR FORCE PRINT NEWS

President Bush signed the fiscal 2003 National Defense Authorization Act into law Dec. 2 at the Pentagon.

The NDAA authorizes the Department of Defense to spend \$375 billion to continue the transformation of the military to face future challenges and to fight the global war on terrorism.

More than one-fourth of that amount, \$94 billion, will go to support personnel programs and quality-of-life initiatives.

"It sets priorities for our Defense Department in a critical, critical period for our country," Bush said.

According to the president, the NDAA rewards the service and sacrifice of the nation's military members and their families with higher pay, improved facilities and better housing.

"America's military is strong, and that's the way it should be," Bush said. "Our nation and world are safer that way. Now and in the future, we will maintain a military that is second to none."

As part of this year's overall defense budget, the Air Force was authorized \$28.3 billion for the procurement of aircraft, missiles and

ammunition; \$33.7 billion in operation and maintenance funds for the active-duty force, Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard; \$389 million for environmental restoration; \$1.3 billion in military construction; and \$684 million in family housing construction.

The highlights of the bill include:

- Fully funding an across-the-board 4.1 percent military pay raise with targeted increases of up to 6.5 percent for mid-grade and senior noncommissioned officers

- Reducing the out-of-pocket housing expenses from the current 11.3 percent to 7.5 percent in fiscal 2003, eventually eliminating the out-of-pocket costs by fiscal 2005

- Expanding TRICARE Prime Remote benefits to family members who remain at a remote location when they cannot accompany the military member on a new assignment or duty; it also extended these benefits to family members of remotely located air reserve component members when they are ordered to active duty for more than 30 days

- Extending several special pays and bonuses through December 2003, including enlistment and reenlistment bonuses; it also permits the service secretaries to

award an incentive pay of up to \$1,500 per month to military members serving in assignments involving difficult working conditions or undesirable overseas locations

- Doubling the regular basic allowance for subsistence for single enlisted airmen stationed in remote locations without adequate availability of meals from a government messing facility

- Creating a new payment for all military retirees who were wounded in combat and received the Purple Heart and those who were severely disabled in combat-related incidents; monthly payments would range from \$103-\$2,100 each month, depending on the level of disability, and would represent a partial to full offset of the reduction in retired pay required by the current law on concurrent receipt

- Continuing the existing DOD payment of a special stipend for severely disabled military retirees with a disability rating of 60 percent or higher

- Allowing service secretaries to grant a one-time leave of absence of up to 14 days to servicemembers with qualifying emergencies to prevent them from entering into unearned or excessive leave status

- Reducing the minimum years of service required by reservists before they are eligible to qualify for retirement pay from eight years to six years

- Extending the number of years members of the selected reserve may use Montgomery GI Bill benefits from 10 to 14 years

- Authorizing commissary privileges to National Guardsmen who are participating in federally declared national emergencies

- Providing \$4.6 billion for procurement of 23 F/A-22 Raptor production aircraft and continued Raptor development

- Increasing the service's unmanned aerial fleet with the procurement of three Global Hawk and 29 Predator unmanned aerial vehicles

- Providing \$3.7 billion for the purchase of 12 C-17 Globemaster IIIs and to support a multiyear procurement of additional C-17s

- Funding the procurement of one E-8C Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System aircraft, one EC-130J and 35 T-6A Texan II Joint Primary Aircraft Training System aircraft

- Authorizing a Korean Defense Service Medal to be issued to military members who served in the theater since July 28, 1954

Energy conservation program powers up Team Charleston

Members of the Charleston AFB Energy Management Steering Group decided in November to implement Turn it Off, an energy management campaign.

The goal of the campaign is to change people's habits, resulting in energy saving practices, said Darrell Guidry, 437th Civil Engineer Squadron Energy Management Section. For December and January, the EMSG wants Team Charleston to turn off facility lights whenever and wherever possible to conserve energy.

Group and squadron EMSG representatives are working in conjunction with individual facility managers to make the program a success, said William Gaines, 437 CES Energy Management Section.

"It is necessary for all facility managers to participate for the program to be a success,"



Gaines said. "Likewise, I encourage all Team Charleston personnel to participate in the activity, especially during the observation periods."

The observation periods are Monday-Dec. 13 and Jan. 27-31, he said.

"Fairness to all facilities requires efforts by each EMSG representative and facility manager," Guidry said. "During the observation peri-

ods, facility managers are asked to tour their buildings and observe the status of all lights."

Guidry recommends building managers tour buildings at least two days during the observation period.

Facility managers will calculate the percentage of unoccupied spaces where lights are left on during those tours, Gaines said. Those results will be passed on to the EMSG, and the facility or squadron with the best energy-saving practices will be recognized by the group in February.

Energy conservation reminders will be sent via e-mail during December and January to encourage Team Charleston to participate in the program.

For more information on this or other energy management concerns, call Guidry at 963-5029, or Gaines at 963-5019.

437 MDG has Flu vaccines available for all

Ounce of prevention worth pound of cure during flu season

The 437th Medical Group is offering the flu vaccine to all beneficiaries here.

The flu virus generally is type A, B or C and mutates every few years, resulting in new strains of the virus.

"That is why it is important to get your flu vaccine every year," said Capt. David Newman, 437 MDG Public Health chief. "Experts work diligently to re-engineer the vaccine each year to protect us from the most prevalent strains of the flu virus."

Since it is cold and flu season, prevention is the key to keeping everyone healthy and happy, Newman said, and good information is the first part of the battle.

Whether you have a cold or the flu it is important to know:

- Both are viral illnesses and do not require antibiotics; they need to run their course

- Both affect the upper respiratory tract and can result in a runny nose, sneezing, coughing, sore throat, headache and general body

aches

Some ways to tell the difference between a cold and the flu are:

- A cold generally starts with a few symptoms and may or may not result in a low-grade fever (only one-two degrees higher than normal body temperature)

- The flu usually begins much faster and has more severe symptoms than a cold

- Complications from the flu may even be more severe

- Fever associated with flu can last three-four days and result in body temperature increasing to 100.4-104 degrees

Thorough, frequent hand washing with soap and water is the best prevention for infectious diseases like colds and the flu.

Many people believe changes in temperature associated with changing seasons cause colds and the flu. Colder temperatures do drive people indoors and keep them in closer contact with others causing the virus to spread faster.

A virus may spread to objects people touch, like telephones and doorknobs. That virus can then be carried to the eyes, nose or mouth by unwashed hands.

Another way to avoid a cold or the flu is to build a stronger immunity

by following a healthy lifestyle.

- Get enough rest, at least seven-eight hours of sleep every day

- Decrease stress and relax more
- Get aerobic exercise 3-5 times a week

- Eat five servings of fruit and vegetables daily

- Avoid smoking and second-hand smoke

- Get a flu shot

For more ways to treat a cold or the flu, the book *Take Care of Yourself*, by Donald Vickery, M.D., and James Fries, M.D., is available from primary care managers at the 437 MDG.

The book offers suggestions for handling symptoms like drinking plenty of fluids, gargling with salt water for a sore throat and taking over-the-counter medications like decongestants while the virus runs its course.

The book also helps determine when medical attention is needed, like when a fever lasts more than three-four days or symptoms that persist more than seven-10 days.

Another source of information is the Cold and Flu Survivor's Guide, online at www.webmd.com.

(Information for this article was provided by the 437th Medical Group.)

Other prevention tips

Don't cover sneezes, coughs with hands

Because germs and viruses cling to your bare hands, muffling coughs and sneezes with your hands results in passing along your germs to others. When you feel a sneeze or cough coming, use a tissue, then throw it away immediately. If you don't have a tissue, turn your head away from people near you and cough into the air.

Don't Touch Your Face

Cold and flu viruses enter your body through the eyes, nose, or mouth. The major way children catch colds is by touching their faces, and it is also a key way they pass colds on to their parents.

Drink Plenty of Fluids

Water flushes your system, washing out the poisons as it rehydrates you. A typical, healthy adult needs eight 8-ounce glasses of fluids each day. How can you tell if you're getting enough liquid? If the color of your urine runs close to clear, you're getting enough. If it's deep yellow, you need more fluids.

(Tips from www.webmd.com)

Combat Camera Photo of the Week



Photo by Senior Airman Stacy Pearsall, 1 CTCS

Copa Cabanas

Chilean Army band members wait for the opening ceremonies to begin at Fuerte Lautaro, Santiago, Chile. Cabanas 2002 Chile is a multinational combined readiness training exercise.

ANTHRAX

continued from page 1

four weeks after the initial dose, followed by doses at the six, 12 and 18 month points, plus annual boosters.

Individuals who had previously started the anthrax vaccine series will pick up with the next dose due, Bonnel said.

The AVIP was first started in 1998, primarily for those personnel assigned or deployed to Southwest Asia and Korea.

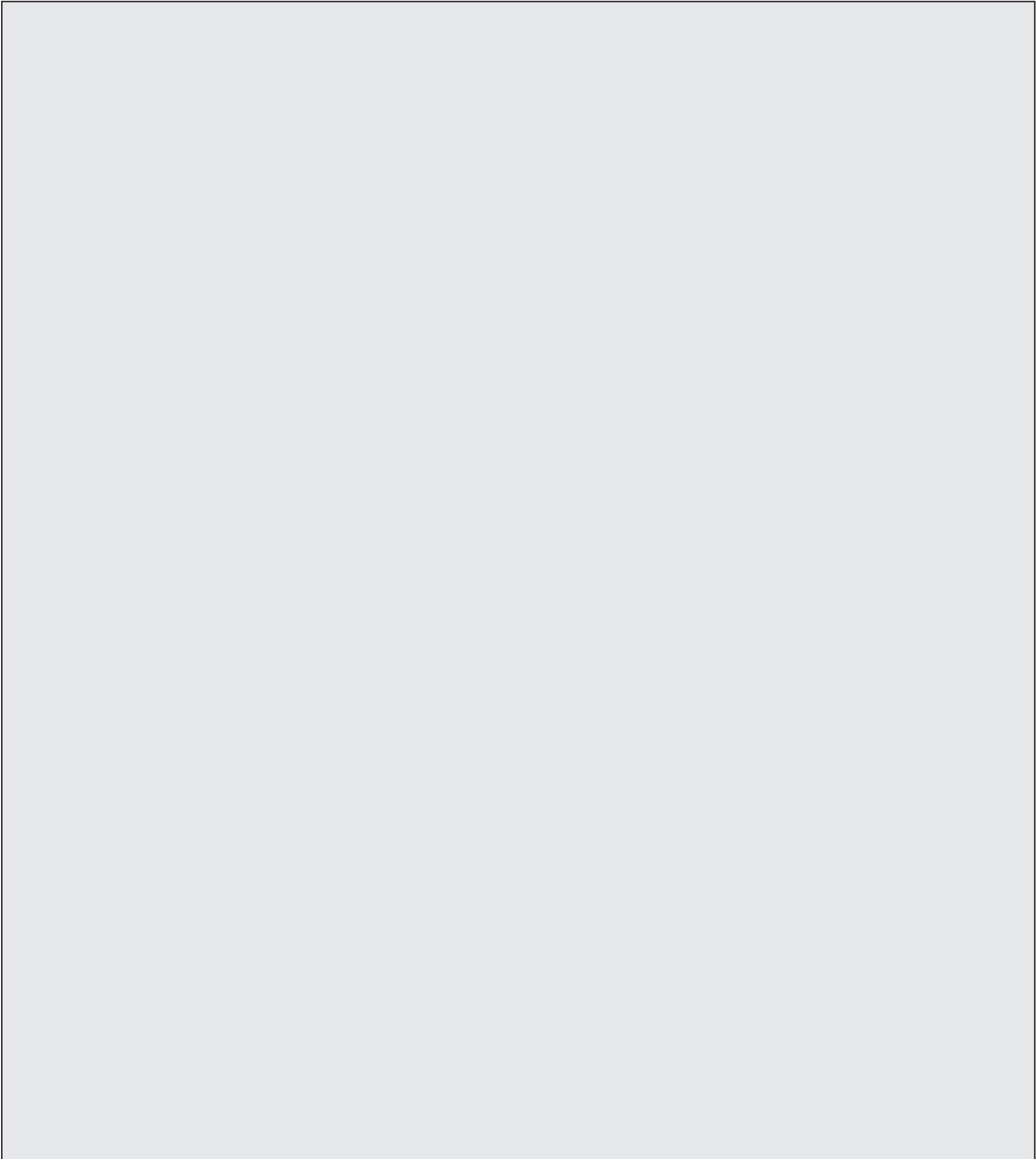
Since that time, the program has undergone a number of changes.

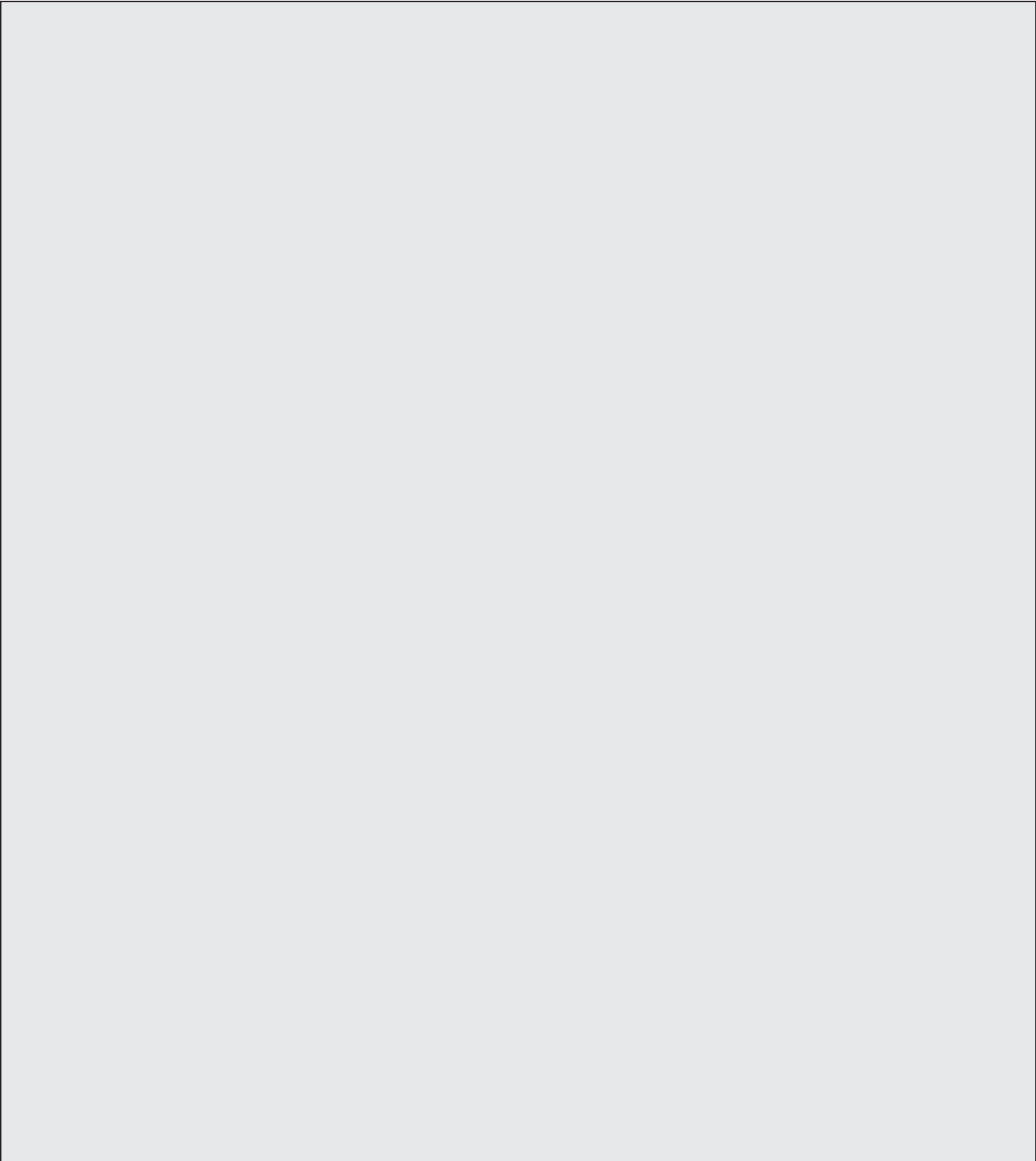
Most recently, administration of the vaccine has been restricted to a relatively small number of personnel as part of a slowdown due to production and supply issues.

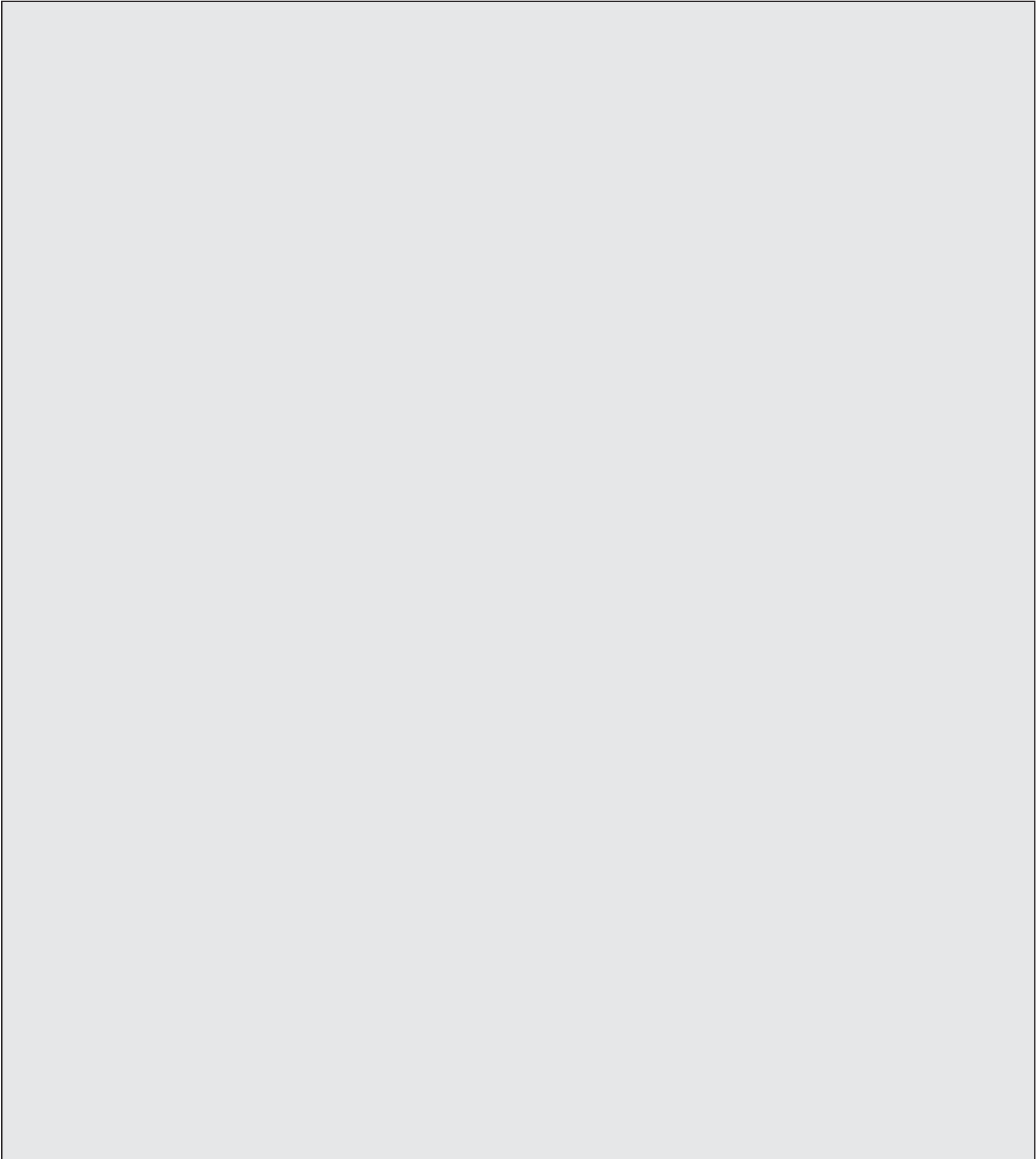
Since these issues have been resolved, the program is being reintroduced per recent DOD policy.

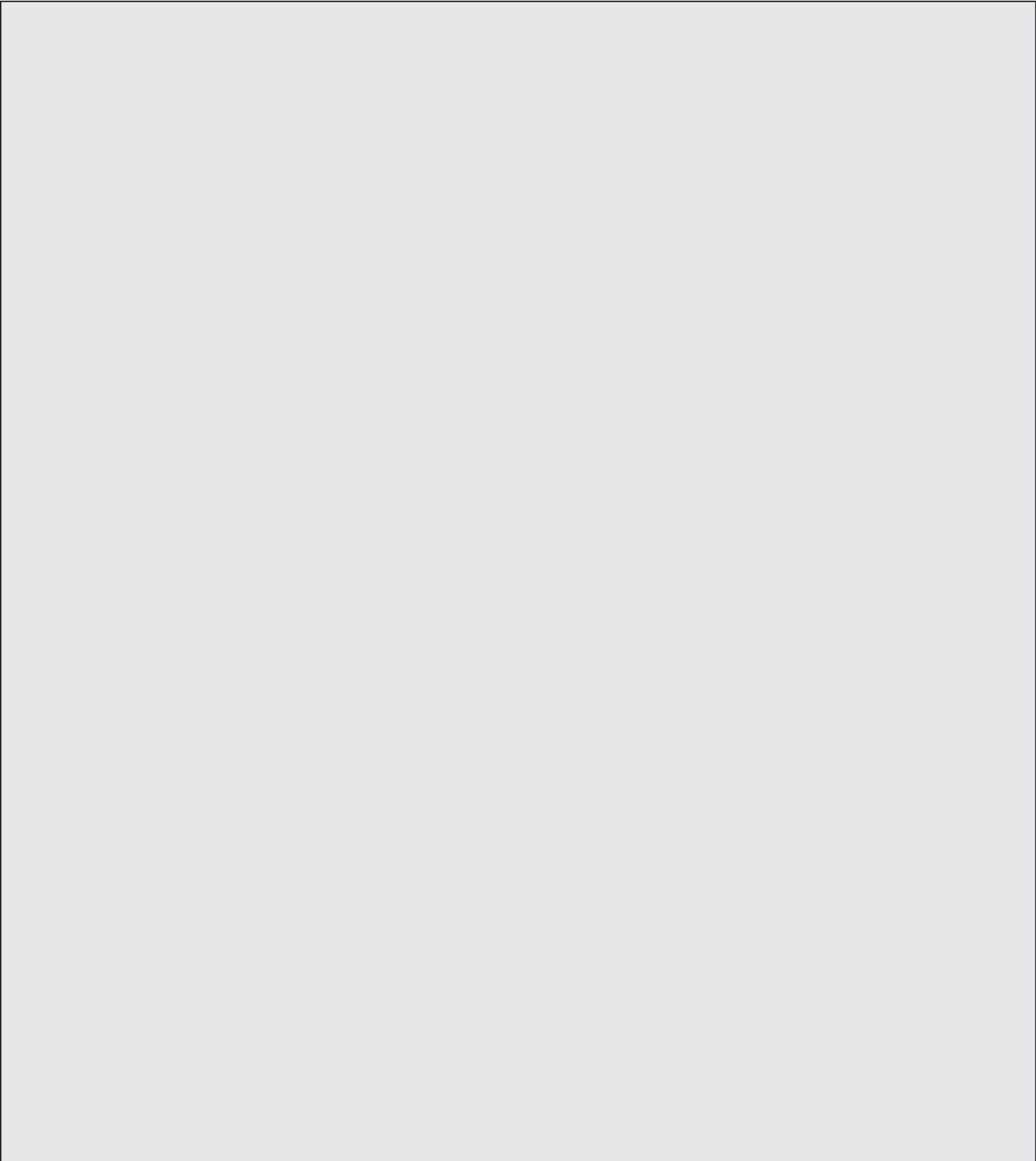
For more information about the anthrax vaccine, check the official DOD Web site at <http://www.anthrax.mil>.

(Air Force Print News. Airman Stephanie Hammer, 437 AW Public Affairs, also contributed to this article.)









437 SFS participates in ‘Click it or Ticket’

Program aims to increase adult, teen seat belt use

By **STAFF SGT. MELANIE STREETER**
437 AW PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The 437th Security Forces Squadron joined thousands of law enforcement agencies nationwide in the “Click it or Ticket” campaign Nov. 25-Dec. 2.

The campaign was designed to crack down on drivers who don’t use seat belts or buckle up their children, said Staff Sgt. J.J. Fuqua, 437 SFS “Click it or Ticket” coordinator.

“It wasn’t about giving people tickets,” Fuqua said. “It was about raising awareness and reminding people to buckle up.”

Volunteers checked 293 vehicles during the campaign and handed out flyers reminding drivers of how dangerous it can be to drive without seat belts, according to Senior Master Sgt. Richard Graves, 437 SFS Security Forces Operations manager.

Tech. Sgt. William Cline, Staff Sgt. Carl Davis and Staff Sgt. Daniel Prosymchak, all from the 437 SFS, volunteered to come in during off-duty hours to help with the cam-

Source: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

paign, Fuqua said.

Despite nationwide seat belt use being at an all time high with three out of four people buckling up, motor vehicle accidents are the number one cause of death for military members, according to Maj. Jeffrey Hunt, 437 SFS commander. In 2002, 321 military members from all services died in private motor vehicle crashes, up 35 percent from last year.

Nearly half of those servicemembers who failed to wear seat belts could have survived if they had buckled up, Hunt said.

“We don’t leave our young ser-

vicemen and women on the battle field, and we shouldn’t leave them on the highway either,” said Chuck Hurley, executive director of the Air Bag & Seat Belt Safety Campaign and a vice president of the National Safety Council, in a news release. “The fact that our armed forces are not immune to these preventable tragedies is cause enough to make seat belt enforcement a national priority.”

Law enforcement agencies chose the Thanksgiving weekend for the campaign because it is typically one of the most dangerous for drivers, according to Fuqua. The Na-

tional Safety Council predicted 575 deaths and 30,500 disabling injuries resulting from traffic crashes during the Thanksgiving holiday period.

By raising driver awareness, the 437 SFS is also making children safer, said Fuqua.

Nationwide crash data, provided by the Air Bag & Seat Belt Safety Campaign, shows driver restraint is the strongest predictor of child restraint use. When a driver is buckled, restraint use for children younger than 15 is 87 percent. In comparison, 24 percent of unbuckled drivers used restraints for children.

Since more than half of the 1,946 children who died in crashes in 2000 were unbelted, the campaign’s focus on passengers is important, Fuqua said.

Drivers 16-19 are at four times greater risk of being involved in a crash and are twice as likely to die in motor vehicle accidents, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

The Air Bag and Seat Belt Safety Campaign started nationwide efforts to increase seat belt usage in 1998. At that time, 62 percent of the nation buckled up. Since then, seat belt use has increased to the current rate of 75 percent.

Graphic by Staff Sgt. Melanie Streeter